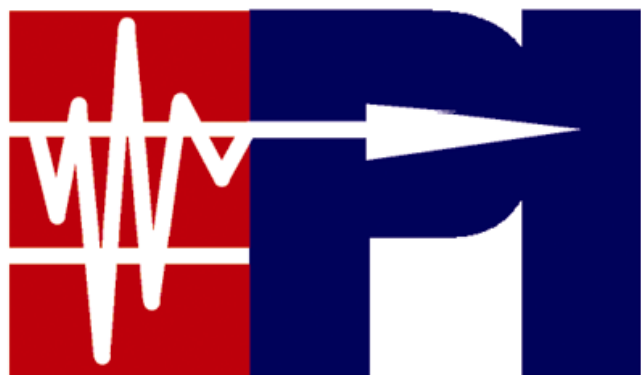


NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON
DISABILITY



EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS
INITIATIVE

www.nod.org/emergency

Outreach Means Reaching Out Conference

VA Nov. 2004

Elizabeth Davis
Director – N.O.D.'s EPI



Defining the SN Population:

- Usually accepted definition includes:
 - People with disabilities (all ages)
 - Seniors (or the full age spectrum)
 - Medically managed (all ages)
- Sometimes expanded to cover non-English speaking, ethnic/cultural minority community, animals, homeless or other marginalized populations, etc.



Goals:

- Involve Persons with Disabilities (PwD) on Councils, Task Forces, planning groups, etc. & benefits include:
 - Creative solutions
 - New visions
 - Subject matter experts
 - Knowledge & experience
 - Non-traditional resources
- Identify & address disaster “unmet” needs appropriately



The Facts: PwD

- 54 million persons make up the disability population in this country (1:5)
 - Over 16 million persons with disabilities are gainfully employed
- Spectrum of Disability: *temporary, chronic, episodic, visible, invisible, etc.*
- Can impact anyone at anytime



The Facts: Older Persons

- Persons 65 years and older account for 12.7% of the population in this country
 - In 2000 that was ~ 34.7 million people (1:7)
 - By 2030 that number will increase to 64.9 million people (1:5)
- With age is an increased overlap with the disability community



Harris Poll: survey commissioned by N.O.D. in November 2001

- 58% of PwD do not know whom to contact about emergency plans in their community
- 61% of PwD have not made plans to quickly and safely evacuate their homes
- Among those PwD employed full or part time, 50% say no plans have been made to safely evacuate their workplace



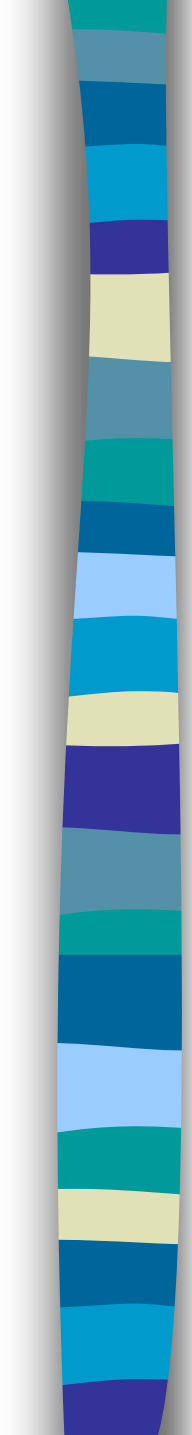
Harris Poll: continued

- All the percentages were found to be higher for PwD than for those without disabilities
- Survey also revealed PwD are more anxious about their personal safety post-9/11 than the general population



Harris Poll: re-survey results 2003

- The percentage of PwD indicating they do not know whom to contact about emergency plans in their community and those who have not made plans to evacuate from their own homes barely changes more than two years after the first post-9/11 survey.
- The most dramatic improvement was in the area of workplace preparedness plans for employees with disabilities.
- Those PwD anxious about their safety remained higher than counterparts without disabilities.

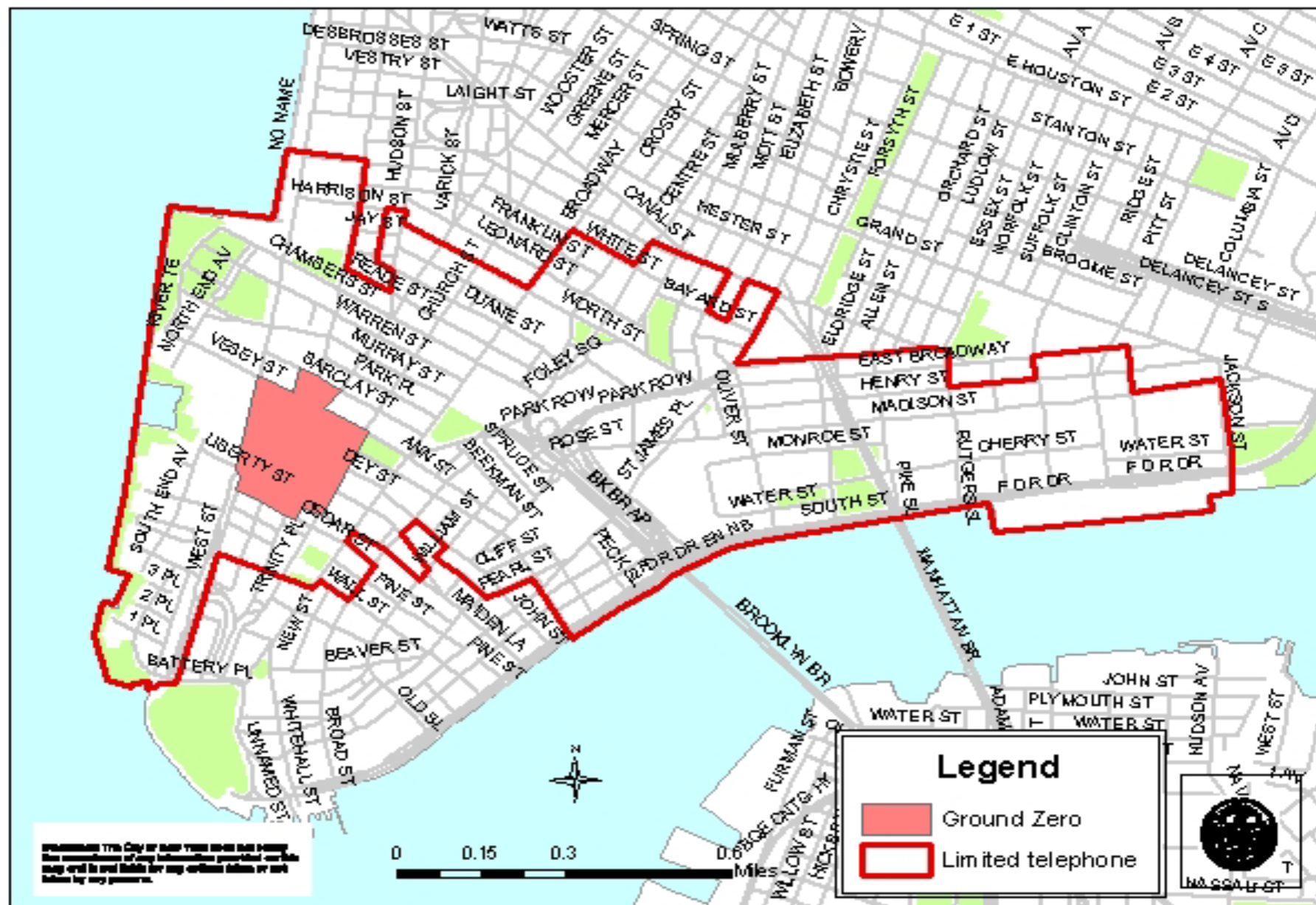


An Illustration of Impact

Demographics: WTC Area - NYC

- Over 200 languages are spoken in NYC
 - Ground Zero directly impacted the Chinatown neighborhood
 - Many undocumented workers of all ethnicities affected (ineligible for most federal aid)
- Commercial vs. Residential & mixed use area
- Housing (NORC, 504, 202, 80/20)
- HBC (~ 7 agencies in zone with ~5,000 clients)
- 2 Senior Centers
- 1 Hospital

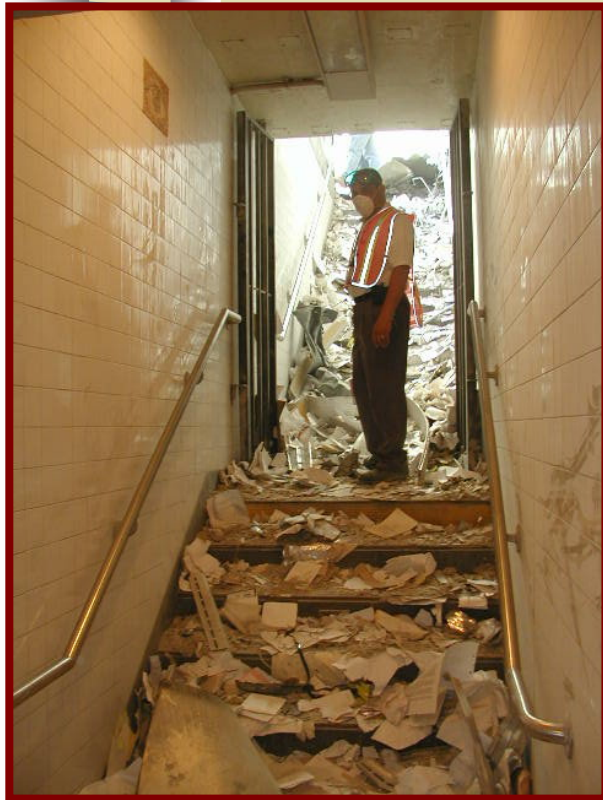
Telephone Outages as of 8:00 AM, 9/22/01



7th Avenue Subway near Chambers St. station



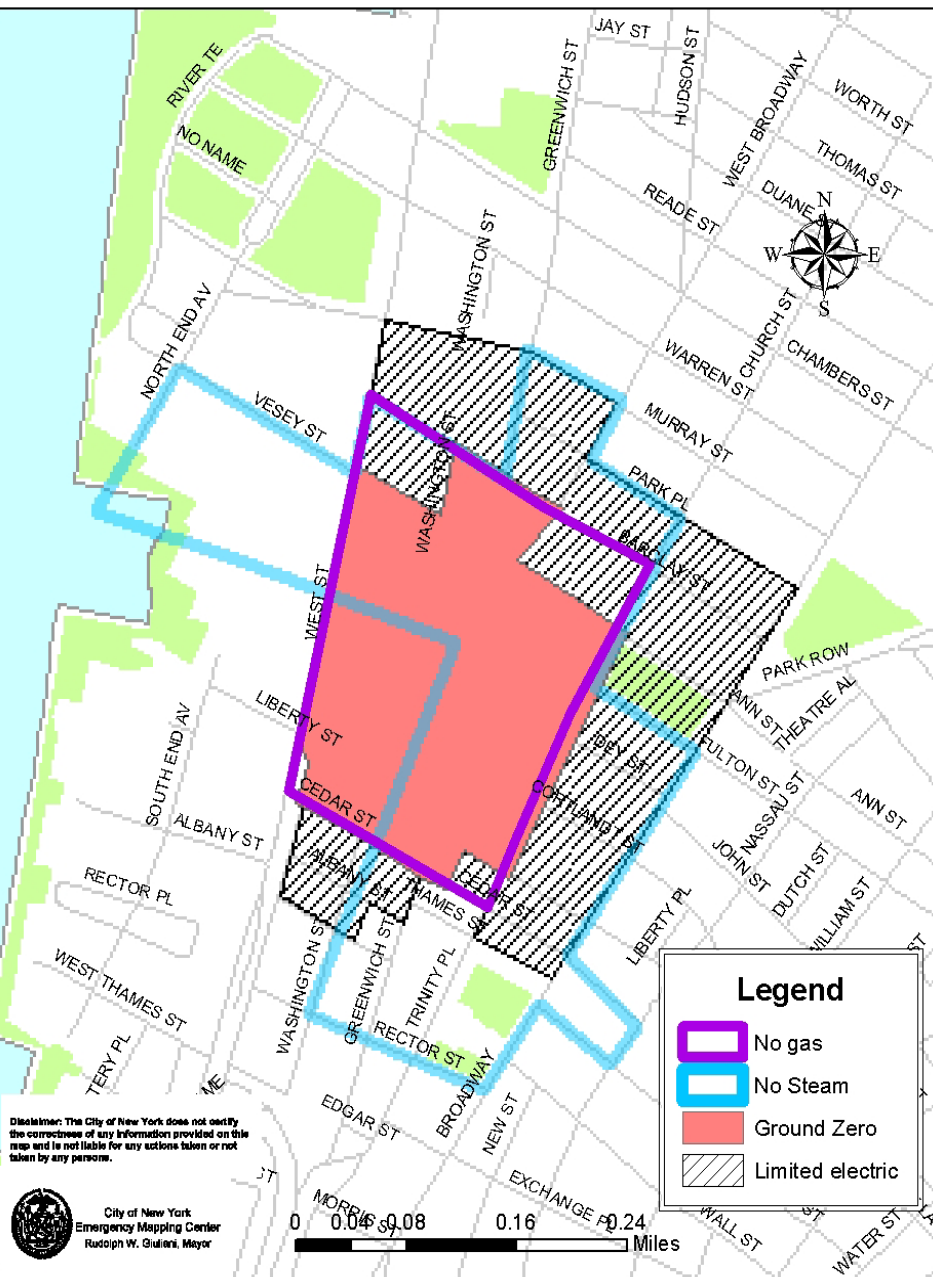
WTC/Path Complex Entrance



Cortland St. Station Platform



ConEd Status as of 7:00 PM, 9/23/01



Water Outages as of 6:00 PM, 9/22/01

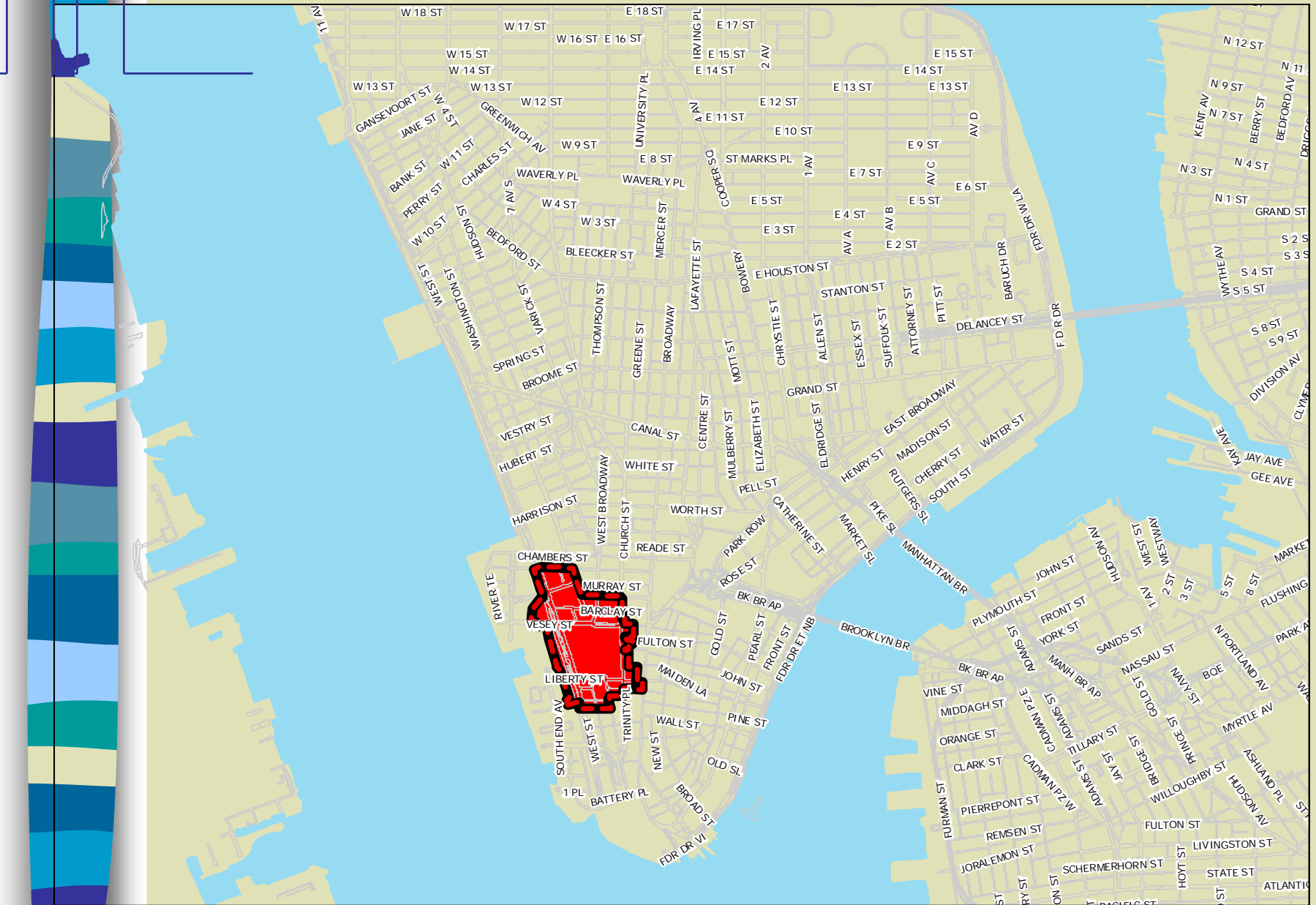


W T C Response 9/11/2001

This map illustrates the layout of Lower Manhattan, New York City, with the World Trade Center site highlighted in red. The map shows a dense grid of streets, including major thoroughfares like Broadway, Wall Street, and the Hudson River to the west. The World Trade Center site is located at the southern tip of the island, near the intersection of Broadway and the Hudson River. The map is oriented with North at the top.

W T C Response

10/24/2001





Invite & Involve

- *Qualified* individuals active in the SN / Aging Network population
- Feed volunteers into local programs and CBOs serving the SN / Elder population (ILCs, etc.)
- Work with municipal offices for the SN populations (MOPD, AAA, etc.)
- *Partnerships can and must happen now...*



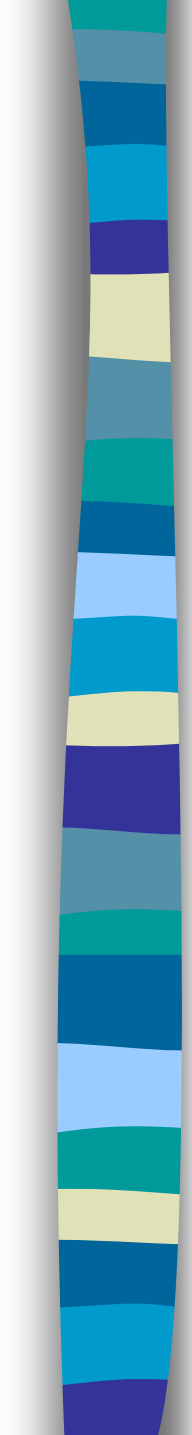
Harris Poll: 2004 survey commissioned by N.O.D. for DHS

- Purpose: determine the degree to which jurisdictions have taken into account the needs of PwD in their emergency planning *and* included PwD in themselves in the planning process
- Respondents: nationwide cross section of emergency managers from each SEMO, the largest, midsize and smaller cities
- Result: snapshot that can be used as a baseline to more deeply and fully examine the issues
- Good news: planning is under way...



Harris Poll: 2004 survey results

- 76% do not have a paid expert on staff to deal with emergency preparedness and PwD
- 36% stated no special training on this topic has been offered
- 39% stated no specialized equipment for use by PwD during emergencies has been purchased
- 59% do not have plans including the pediatric population



Harris Poll: 2004 survey results continued

- 73% said no funding had been received or expected to address emergency planning for PwD
- 42% said they have a public awareness campaign providing emergency information to PwD; only 16% of these make the plan available in accessible formats (i.e. Braille, cassette, large type, etc.)



Volunteers

- Augment the existing planning and response staff in the focus area of SN issues
- Train existing volunteers to be aware of the population and how to adapt their own protocols
- Include PwD in the training itself to identify deficiencies and offer solutions (drills* & hot-washes are key)



Other Issues:

- Look to new building and safety codes for opportunities to improve plans for PwD (i.e. ISO, NFPA, ANSI, etc.)
- DOJ new guidance about the legal requirements under ADA Titles II & III
- Specialized Equipment:
 - Buyer Beware !
 - PwD must be part of selection process
 - FDA reevaluating the certification approvals of some equipment after ICDR summit



General Awareness Helps All...

- ...So PwD are better able assist in own survival & have realistic expectations of available resources*
- ...Because anyone can, at any time, become part of the disability community for a temporary or long term basis
- ...Enables quick adjustments to plans when necessary
- ...Effectively benefit from training



Benefits for All (some examples)

- Audible signals: in smoke conditions can assist everyone locate escape routes
- Exit door color designation: in time of stress and panic assists everyone locate the correct exit doors
- Stair landing intercoms: can enable everyone to communicate location to command post
- Special equipment (ex: evac chair): can be used to remove anyone from a dangerous area



N.O.D.'s Emergency Preparedness Initiative

History/Overview:

N.O.D. launched its Emergency Preparedness Initiative in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks. N.O.D. recognized that people with disabilities have a great stake in the effectiveness of public programs for preparing for and responding to all types of disasters.



EPI - continued

Mission:

First, to make sure that the special needs of people with disabilities are adequately addressed prior to an emergency in order to minimize the adverse impact on them and their communities. This enables emergency responders to make informed decisions for the best use of available resources during emergencies.

Second, to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the emergency planning process at all levels of government and the private sector so they can offer their insights, knowledge, and resourcefulness. They can contribute to the effectiveness of local emergency management planning.



EPI - continued

- Website: repository of information, links, reports, resources about emergency/disaster and disability (“one stop shopping” as a starting point)
- Projects: guides, surveys, outreach campaigns, community recognition awards, etc.



Summary:

- Include PwD as part of the planning process: don't plan *for* but plan *with*...
- Remain *ability* focused
- Integrate all plans for PwD into the over all disaster protocol and communicate the plans with necessary emergency authorities
- Recognize that “one plan fits all” is like “all disabilities are alike”...both are failed assumptions



Summary – continued

- The Councils, Task Forces, planning groups and response teams actually take shape only when all stakeholders are invited to become part of the process in a meaningful way



A Call To Action

If PwD are not taken into account before an emergency, the issues will likely not be addressed properly during a disaster, and this will have a huge impact on the entire community after the event.

THANK YOU

Elizabeth Davis

718.330.0034 (V/TTY)